

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03314 151241Z

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTON: SECRETARY'S MIDEAST MISSION

1. SUMMARY. LOCAL POLITICAL CRISIS CONTINUES TO OVERSHADOW SECRETARY'S MISSION ON FRONT PAGES OF BEIRUT PRESS MARCH 15, AND GENERAL TONE OF NEWS TREATMENT OF MISSION IS ONE OF UNCERTAINTY OVER ITS PROGRESS. EDITORIAL COMMENT STRESSES DIFFICULTIES SURROUNDING MISSION. LEADING INDEPENDENT "AN-NAHAR" ATTRIBUTES THESE TO ISRAELI UNWILLINGNESS TO COMMIT ITSELF TO EVENTUAL FULL WITHDRAWAL. PRO-SYRIAN "ASH-SHARQ" AND LEBANESE COMMUNIST PARTY ORGAN "AN-NIDA" SEE MORE U.S. PRESSURE ON ISRAEL AS ONLY WAY OUT OF IMPASSE. PRO-SOVIET "ASH-SHA'B" BELIEVES THAT SECRETARY IS IN ANY CASE WORKING SOLELY TO ACHIEVE ISRAELI AIMS. PFLP WEEKLY ORGAN "AL-HADAF" ATTACKS "SURRENDERIST SOLUTIONS" OF U.S. AND "SURRENDERIST ELEMENTS" OF PLO. PRO-ALGERIAN WEEKLY "AL-BALAGH" UNFLATTERINGLY HIGHLIGHTS DILEMMA OF EGYPTIAN DIPLOMACY IN ITS ATTEMPT TO STRENGTHEN SECRETARY'S HAND WITHOUT INCURRING ARAB, SYRIAN, AND PALESTIAN WRATH. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 03314 151241Z

2. MICHEL ABU JAWDEH, CHIEF EDITOR OF LEADING INDEPENDENT "AN-NAHAR", WRITES IN FRON-PAGE EDITORIAL: "WHAT AMERICAN SECSTATE IS TRYING TO ACHIEVE IS, OUTWARDLY, AGREEMENT ON PAPER AND, PRACTICALLY SPEAKING, MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF INTENTIONS. THIS IS WHAT MAKES HIS MISSION SO DIFFICULT.... ITS FAILURE CAN BE EXPECTED. ITS SUCCESS WOULD BE A MIRACLE. AGREEMENT NOW BEING SOUGHT IS CORNERSTONE OF LOFTY EDIFICE OF PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.... THUS, WHEN DR. KISSINGER CONFRONTS DIFFICULTIES IN ISRAEL, AS HE IN FACT HAS, ONLY ONE THING COMES TO MIND. IT IS THAT ISRAEL SEEKS TO ESCAPE FROM BASIC STEP AWAITED BY ALL PEOPLE, INCLUDING AMERICA -- NAMELY, CONSENT TO PARTIAL WITHDRAWAL WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS WOULD BE ONLY BEGINNING, NOT AN END IN ITSELF."

3. PRO-SYRIAN "ASH-SHARQ" WRITES IN FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL: "AMERICAN SECSTATE HENRY KISSINGER IS STILL IN ISRAEL EXPRESSING CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM.... WE ADVISE HIM TO REAMIN IN ISRAEL UNTIL HE OBTAINS ITS RECOGNITION OF SETTLEMENT AGREED UPON BY ALL COUNTRIES OF WORLD. HE SHOULD NOT RETURN TO ANY ARAB STATE BEFORE THAT, BECAUSE HE WILL LOSE ALL ABILITY TO PERSIST IN HIS POLICY OF PROCRASTINATION."

4. LEBANESE COMMUNIST PARTY ORGAN "AN-NIDA" WRITES IN FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL: "IT HAS BECOME CERTAIN THAT ISRAEL WILL WITHDRAWL FROM PASSES AND OILFIELDS ONLY IN RETURN FOR IMPORTANT POLITICAL CONCESSIONS AND WITH AMERICA'S BACKING.... QUESTION TO BE ASKED IS THIS: CANNOT 'DEAR HENRY' ... FORCE RULERS OF ISRAEL TO LESSEN THEIR INTRANSIGENCE AND ABANDON THEIR CONDITIONS AND ASKE THEM TO WITHDRAW UNCONDITIONALLY, IF ... HE IS REALLY AND TRULY INTERESTED IN CREATING JUST AND DURABLE PEACE IN MIDEAST?"

5. MUHAMMAD AMIN DUGHAN,PUBLISHER OF PRO-SOVIET "ASH-SHA'B", WRITES IN FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL: "WHENEVER DR. KISSINGER ARRIVES IN AREA, CONSPIRACIES AGAINST ARAB WORLD ESCALATE.... DR. KISSINGER'S MISSION AIMS IN FIRST PLACE AT CREATING DISPUTES AMONG ARAB STATES... TO ACHIEVE ISRAEL'S PURPOSE IN WINNING PEACE, KEEPING LANDS, AND IMPOSING CAPITULATION ON ARABS."

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PAGE 03 BEIRUT 03314 151241Z

6. PFLP WEEKLY ORGAN "AL-HADAF" REPRINTS PFLP COMMUNIQUE ALLEGEDLY DISTRIBUTED INSIDE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES: "PLOTS AND SURRENDERIST SOLUTIONS BEING HATCHED AGAINST OUR PALESTINIAN CAUSE UNDER AMERICA'S LEADERSHIP...AIR TO LIQUIDATE IT AND TO RECOGNIZE LEGALITY OF ZIONIST ENEMY'S OCCUPATION AND CONTROL OF OUR SACRED LANDS AND OUR PALESTINIAN CITIES OF JAFFA, HAIFA, LOD, RAMLA, AND ACRE.... BALANCE OF INTERNATIONAL AND ARAB FORCES THAT FOLLOWED

OCTOBER WAR FAVORS INTERESTS OF REACTIONARY ZIONIST
ENEMY AND WILL PRODUCE REACTIONARY IMPERIALIST SETTLEMENT,
NOT A NATIONALIST ONE, IN EXCHANGE FOR RECOGNITION OF AND
PEACE WITH SETTLER ENEMY ENTITY. DREAMS OF SURRENDERIST
ELEMENTS IN PLO LEADERSHIP OF ESTABLISHING 'NATIONAL
AUTHORITY' ... ARE NOTHING BUT DECEPTION OF MASSES....
NATIONAL AUTHORITY WILL NOT COME TO OUR STEADFAST PEOPLE
THROUGH GENEVA CONFERENCES, BUT WILL BE WRESTED AT GUNPOINT....
WE WILL ESTABLISH REVOLUTIONARY NATIONAL AUTHORITY, NOT
REACTIONARY GENEVA AUTHORITY LINKED TO AMERICA AND SAUDI
ARABIA AND ALLIED TO JORDAN AND ISRAEL.... WE ARE DETERMINED
TO RETRIEVE ALL OF PALESTINE AND ... WILL FOILD THESE PLOTS
AND SOLUTIONS AND KEEP PLO FROM DEVIATING AND BEING CARRIED
AWAY IN SEA OF REACTIONARY IMPERALIST SETTLEMENTS."

7. PRO-ALGERIAN WEEKLY "AL-BALAGH" WRITES IN LEAD EDITORIAL:
"EGYPTIAN DIPLOMACY TODAY SEES THAT KISSINGER'S POSITION
IS BEING QUESTIIONED IN U.S., AND IT IS MOVING TO SUPPORT HIM
BY GIVING HIM MAJOR POSSIBILITIES FOR SUCCESS, EVEN THOUGH
THESE WILL WEAKEN EGYPT'S ROLE WITHOUT ASSURING HIS RETENTION....
BUT RETREAT HAS TAKEN PLACE IN EGYPTIAN DIPLOMACY FOLLOWING
FIRST WEEK OF TALKS.... EGYPTIAN REGIME CANNOT PAY 'POLITICAL
PRICE' ISRAEL IS DEMANDING AND FEELS THAT SYRIAN ATTITUDE OF
REJECTION ... WILL HAVE FAR-REACHING REPERCUSSIONS NOT ONLY
ON KISSINGER'S TALKS, BUT ALSO ON EGYPTIAN, ARAB, AND
PALESTINIAN SITUATION. EGYPTIAN REGIME WILL NOT BE ABLE TO
IGNORE SUCH ARAB, SYRIAN, AND PALESTINIAN OPPOSITION."
GODLEY

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